

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/521,404

Applicant(s)

IZZO, ANTONIO

Examiner

Maria Veronica D. Ewald

Art Unit

1722

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/19/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Atty. Michael Striker on August 28, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows: Claim 12 is cancelled.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 7 – 11 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: prior art fails to teach, either alone or in combination, a system for producing composite material slabs, comprising: one or more mixers for mixing a material; hoppers to which the material is unloaded from said one or more mixers; one or more extractor/conveyor belts to which the material is unloaded from said hoppers and which feed the material; a homogenizing disk which receives the material from said extractor/conveyor belts, rotates about a vertical axis and feeds the material; conveyor belts which receive the material from said homogenizing disk; a leveling hopper which receives the material from the further conveyor belts; a double-stroke belt which takes the material from said leveling hopper and unloads it homogeneously; an additional leveling hopper which receives the homogeneously unloaded material from said double-stroke belt; an extracting belt which takes the material from said additional leveling

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hopper and causes as a material to distribute along a length of said extracting belt; an underlying leveling hopper to which the material is unloaded from said extracting belt, wherein said extracting belt is movable with said underlying leveling hopper that is integral with said extracting belt in an opposite direction to unload the material to an underlying mould so as to cover a whole surface of the mold and to fill the mould.

Furthermore, prior art fails to teach, either alone or in combination, a method of producing composite material slabs, comprising the steps of unloading the material from one or more mixers to hoppers; unloading the material from the hoppers to one or more extractor/conveyor belts; feeding the material from the one or more extractor/conveyor belts to a homogenizing disk rotating about a vertical axis; feeding the material from said homogenizing disk to conveyor belts that convey a material to a leveling hopper; conveying the material from the leveling hopper with a double-stroke belt which takes the material by its movement and unloads the material homogeneously to an additional leveling hopper; taking the material from the additional leveling hopper by an extracting belt so as to cause the material to distribute along a length of the extracting belt; unloading the material from the extracting belt to an underlying leveling hopper; and moving the extracting belt with the underlying leveling hopper that is integral to the extracting belt so as to unload the material to an underlying mold, thereby covering the whole surface of the mold and filling the mold.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

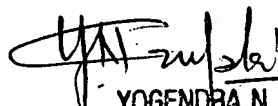
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maria Veronica D. Ewald whose telephone number is 571-272-8519. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571-272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MVE

  
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